



Thomas A. Schatz
President

September 26, 2007

U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator,

This afternoon, Sen. Tom Coburn (R-Okla.) is scheduled to introduce and debate Amdt. 2196 to the fiscal 2008 Defense Department (DoD) Authorization Act. Amdt. 2196 would close the National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC) and reassign its necessary and essential activities to another agency. It would direct the Secretary of Defense to consult with the appropriate federal agencies, including the Justice Department (DoJ), to determine where the funding should go. On behalf of the more than 1.2 million members of the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste (CCAGW) I ask that you support this amendment.

Since 1992, the NDIC has siphoned away \$509 million from our nation's critical national defense needs to pay for a pork-barrel project located in the district of House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, Rep. John Murtha (D-Penn). The program is administered by the DoJ. But the DoJ, along with the Office of National Drug Control Policy and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, believe that NDIC's operations are duplicative, that its activities should be consolidated, and that the funds could be better used elsewhere.

In addition to being a duplicative program, NDIC's director was forced out in 2004 after a DoJ investigation, and there have been complaints of bad management and wasteful spending. In 2005, *U.S. News and World Report* unleashed a scathing investigative article stating NDIC was a boondoggle, had an unclear mission, and had been subject to relentless criticism from its very inception.

It is time to pull the plug on this pork-barrel project. All votes on Amdt. 2196 will be among those considered in CCAGW's *2007 Congressional Ratings*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas Schatz". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.